

SECRET

CONTROL

16 September 1946

TO: Commanding Officer,
Smy WD Mission to Austria

FOR: DULL

FROM: Acting Chief, FBI, and DESQ

SUBJECT: SEIDLACH, Rudolf.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 382E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

1. Reference is made to HQ USA Arrest List (CI Austria Arrests recorded during the period 24 June to 7 July 1946) dated 23 July 1946.

2. There is listed in this report one Rudolf SEIDLACH with the following comment:

"Suspect for AST Budapest Abt., IIF and trustworthy person for this institution. Arrested 3 Sept 1946 by 480th CIC Det at Bad Ischl, Austria."

3. Note that SEIDLACH is shown as arrested 3 Sept 46 although this list of arrests are those recorded during the period 24 June to 7 July 1946.

4. Dr. Rudolf SEIDLACH is a well-known character, and has been described as chief agent of Abwehr Amt VII F of Art Vienna in Hungary in 1944. See pink sheet card 47821.

5. SEIDLACH was also a Zionist courier carrying mail and money between Istanbul and Budapest and, as usual, taking a "considerable commission for the job." He was an associate of SCHMIDT and WINNINGER and Joel BRAND. SEIDLACH is said to have been one of the minor interrogators of Adolf GROSS when he was arrested by the Germans when they occupied Hungary. SEIDLACH was arrested along with SCHMIDT and WINNINGER on 16 May 46, on the orders of Major LAUFFER, and KLAAGER; SEIDLACH is said to have been released within a half-hour while SCHMIDT and WINNINGER were detained.

6. LSA-807 of 16 May 46, contains information on SEIDLACH originating from Project STEPHEN. It indicates that one Hugo OFFENBACH, a former Budapest business associate of Joel BRAND's, ~~SEIDLACH~~ WINNINGER (same as WINNINGER), LAUFFER and SEIDLACH "were again arrested by the NKVD in Budapest and it is not known where they are now." Previously, according to LSA-422, (the interrogation of Eugen NOHL and Grete ROTHER, known to you) ~~SEIDLACH~~ WINNINGER (same as WINNINGER), LAUFFER, SEIDLACH and SCHNAKE had been apparently apprehended by the Russians, liberated from service with them, proceeded to Budapest from whence they proceeded to Bucharest, later returning to Budapest.

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7. Since dates were ^{omitted} improperly indicated in these reports coming from you, ^{the field,} it is difficult for us to return the information to you in any better fashion.

8. This, however, appears evident; SIDLACEK is another member of the same group which was either part of, or operated on the fringes of, the DODGWOOD operation, known to you, which came to grief. He is one of these also who has now precipitated, apparently, in the Austrian area.

9. We are particularly interested in knowing:

- a. Whether he was actually arrested by a U. S. unit on 3 Sept 45?
- b. Where ^{has been} ~~was~~ he, in the meantime?
- c. Has he any present connections with the Zionists in Hungary and Austria?
- d. If he has been in the custody of the U. S. since 3 Sept 45, was he interrogated on what occurred during the alleged periods of his arrest by the NKVD?
- e. If it was incorrectly reported that he was arrested 3 Sept 45, but was in fact arrested during the period 26 June to 7 July 45, what interrogations have been made and what disposition is contemplated for SIDLACEK?

10. Request reply nearest.

DISSEMINATION:

- 1 - London (for info.)

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